

We claim:

1. A cylindrical ballistic tracer platform for use with a shotgun shell having a shot holder and propellant, the tracer platform being positioned within the shotgun shell between the shot holder and the propellant, the tracer platform having a nose, a bottom and a coaxial cavity holding a tracer element, the bottom of the tracer platform having a generally concave cavity which acts as a gas seal upon ignition of the propellant.
2. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer element comprises a cylindrical housing containing pyrotechnic material susceptible to ignition upon burning of the propellant.
3. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 2 wherein the housing of the tracer element further contains a fire-suppressing agent.
4. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer element is selected from the group consisting of electrical material, reflective material, chemiluminescent material, and pyrotechnic material.
5. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has a ballistic coefficient substantially equivalent to a shot pellet's ballistic coefficient.
6. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 5 wherein the tracer platform is made from one or more of the materials selected from the group consisting of aluminum, brass, lead, neoprene, nylon, polyethylene, polyurethane, rubber, steel, Teflon®, titanium, other metals, and other plastics.
7. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform further has a diameter in the range of 0.2 inches to 1.25 inches.

8. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the nose of the tracer platform has a shape selected from the group consisting of flat, conical, and spherical.
9. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has formed therein symmetrical cavities for holding weights for the adjustment of the tracer platform's weight and flight characteristics.
10. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with grooves formed therein.
11. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with symmetrically-positioned fins attached thereto.
12. The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with orifices formed therein.
13. A shotgun shell with a tracer for making shot projectiles visible to a shooter comprising:
 - (a) a hollow shotgun shell having a lower end and an upper end;
 - (b) a base with primer for ignition located inside the lower end of the shotgun shell;
 - (c) propellant positioned proximate to the primer;
 - (d) a shot holder holding shot pellets located inside the upper end of the shotgun shell;
 - (e) a cylindrical ballistic tracer platform positioned inside the shotgun shell between the shot holder and the propellant, the tracer platform having a nose, a bottom and a coaxial cavity holding a tracer element, the bottom of

the tracer platform having a generally concave cavity which acts as a gas seal upon ignition of the propellant.

14. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the tracer element comprises a cylindrical housing containing pyrotechnic material susceptible to ignition upon burning of the propellant.

15. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the housing of the tracer element further contains a fire-suppressing agent.

16. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the tracer element is selected from the group consisting of electrical material, reflective material, chemiluminescent material, and pyrotechnic material.

17. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has a ballistic coefficient substantially equivalent to a shot pellet's ballistic coefficient.

18. The shotgun shell of claim 17 wherein the ballistic tracer platform is made from one or more of the materials selected from the group consisting of aluminum, brass, lead, neoprene, nylon, polyethylene, polyurethane, rubber, steel, Teflon®, titanium, other metals, and other plastics.

19. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform further has a diameter in the range of 0.2 inches to 1.25 inches.

20. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the nose of the ballistic tracer platform has a shape selected from the group consisting of flat, conical, and spherical.

21. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has formed therein symmetrical cavities for holding weights for the adjustment of the tracer platform's weight

and flight characteristics.

22. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with grooves formed therein.

23. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with symmetrically-positioned fins attached thereto.

24. The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with orifices formed therein.